

# Mass in Motion: Stories from the Field

## Creating Gloucester's 1st Open Space and Recreation Plan in 12 Years

**T**he last Open Space and Recreation (OSRC) Plan for Gloucester was drafted in 1998. Though it met the city's needs at that time, it lacked a comprehensive overview of the city's Open Space and Recreational assets and needs. The plan expired in 2003, leaving Gloucester ineligible for several grant programs to improve and expand its open space and recreational opportunities.

In early 2009, the Community Development Department held public meetings to gather community input for a new plan. When the new Get Fit Gloucester! (Gloucester's Mass in Motion program) Project Manager Stephen Winslow came on board in September 2009, one of the first tasks Community Development Director Sarah Garcia assigned him was to help the Planning Director with the OSRC Plan.

The city lacked a comprehensive list of its parks, playgrounds, beaches and other open space areas. Winslow pulled together a list from City ordinances, the Department of Public Works and other materials. OSRC members



*This map shows the distribution of current playgrounds in Gloucester.*

then conducted site inventories to identify the recreational assets and needs of those areas. Planning Director Gregg Cademartori prepared a GIS database and maps of recreational and open space areas based on the City Assessors maps.

The list of recreational facilities were mapped and compared to national standards to identify

types of facilities that Gloucester lacks and/or neighborhoods that lack facilities. From these inventories the OSRC Committee and city staff developed a draft Plan and presented it at several community meetings and to the City Council. The Open Space and Recreation Plan sets forth priorities for improvement to major recreational areas in Downtown Gloucester including Newell Stadium, Burnham's Field, Green Street Fields and Mattos Field. The draft OSRC Plan also sets forth a bold call for the creation of a "Green Path Network" that will create a system of paths and on-road routes linking all villages, commercial and major recreational areas of Gloucester.



*Gloucester's youth will soon be able to enjoy newly improved parks and rec areas.*

**Contact:** Project Manager Steve Winslow > 978-281-9781 > [swinslow@gloucester-ma.gov](mailto:swinslow@gloucester-ma.gov)

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